

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Teach For America

Application ID: 13AC146671

Program Name: Teach For America-Connecticut

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

(+) The applicant provides persuasive evidence that documents low math skills and knowledge, poor graduation rates, and poor performance on the Connecticut Mastery Test as critical needs in the community.

(+) The applicant provides a plausible reason for selecting the target population in order to circumvent the cyclical problems occurring when low-income individuals suffer gaps in achievement from their more affluent peers.

(+) The applicant provides evidence of research findings pertaining to Teach For America (TFA) Corps members' impact on student achievement that are evidenced-informed.

(-) The applicant did not provide any statistical data to show the impact they had made in previous projects.

(-) The applicant does not provide information about the schools or the grades that are the focus; therefore, it is unclear as to how the applicant is incorporating evidence-based or evidence-informed strategies.

(-) The applicant does not provide a description of the impact the 205 Members will have on the community or for their goals of addressing educational inequality.

(-) The applicant did not indicate the number of schools they plan to partner with in this project.

(-) The applicant provides inadequate documentation/sourcing of local data to determine credibility.

(-) The applicant does not provide sufficient information to justify their selection of the target communities.

(-) The applicant provides insufficient information about the assignment of AmeriCorps members, the full-time teacher of record assigned to low-income classrooms and charged with improving academic achievement. The applicant provides limited information about specific activities and the roles and/or responsibilities that the AmeriCorps members will implement on a daily basis.

(-) The applicant identifies the number of slots needed and describes the need but is unspecific about where the Members will be placed and what is expected of them once placed.

(-) The applicant does not provide sufficient data to demonstrate that the proposed project will require 205 full-time slots.